

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-16, 18-22, 24-26 and 28-61 are pending in this application. Claims 14-16, 18, 19 and 48-55 are withdrawn from consideration. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 26 are amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and claims 58-61 are added.

No new matter is added by this Amendment. Support for the language added to claims 1 and 26 and for new claims 58-61 can be found in the specification at, for example, page 5, lines 8-11.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiners Purvis and Lorengo at the interview held March 25, 2005, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 44 and 45 are in condition for allowance.

Applicant further notes with appreciation that the subject matter of claims 11 and 36 is allowable.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

A. JP '492 in view of Reed

Claims 1, 4-10, 12, 13, 21, 24-26, 29-35, 37-39, 41, 46, 47, 56 and 57 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over JP 01-202492 ("JP '492") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,294,641 ("Reed"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed during the March 25, 2005 interview, neither JP '492 nor Reed, in combination or alone, teaches or suggests that the varnish is partially cured by exposure to heat prior to transfer as recited in claims 1 and 26. JP '492 teaches that the protective layer may be partially cured by irradiation, while Reed teaches that the resin layer is transferred in

liquid phase. Neither reference, alone or in combination, teaches that the varnish is partially cured by exposure to heat prior to transfer as recited in claims 1 and 26.

Furthermore, JP '492 in combination with Reed does not teach or suggest a UV thermal. During the March 25 interview, Examiner Lorengo explained that Reed is introduced to show that the protective layer of JP '492 can be cured by thermal treatment. However, this is not correct. As explained during the interview, JP '492 teaches a protective layer that is cured by irradiation, e.g., the protective layer is UV curable. Furthermore, Reed does not teach or suggest heating the protective layer at all prior to the transfer as recited in claims 1 and 26. Instead, Reed teaches that the resin layer is transferred in liquid phase.

Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have looked to Reed's teachings of a liquid phase transfer to thermally cure the protective layer of JP '492.

Applicant submits that new dependent claims 60 and 61 are allowable for the same reasons as claims 1 and 26.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that JP '492 and Reed, in combination or alone, do not teach or suggest all of the features recited in claims 1, 4-10, 12, 13, 21, 24-26, 29-35, 37-39, 41, 46, 47, 56 and 57. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are thus respectfully requested.

B. JP '492 in view of Reed, in further view of Hekal

Claims 3 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over JP '492 in view of Reed, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,581,978 ("Hekal"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Hekal does not overcome the deficiencies of JP '492 and Reed. In particular, Hekal does not teach or suggest that the varnish is partially cured by exposure to heat prior to transfer as recited in claims 1 and 26.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 3 and 28 are patentable over JP '492, Reed and/or Hekal. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are thus respectfully requested.

C. JP '492 in view of Reed, further in view of Howard

Claims 22 and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over JP '492 in view of Reed, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 4,133,723 ("Howard"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Howard does not overcome the deficiencies of JP '492 and Reed. In particular, Howard does not teach or suggest that the varnish is partially cured by exposure to heat prior to transfer as recited in claims 1 and 26.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 22 and 40 are patentable over JP '492, Reed and/or Howard. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are thus respectfully requested.

D. JP '492 in view of Reed, further in view of Kamen and Davis

Claims 42 and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over JP '492 in view of Reed, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,391,247 ("Kamen") and U.S. Patent No. 1,124,869 ("Davis"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Kamen and Davis, in combination or alone, do not overcome the deficiencies of JP '492 and Reed. In particular, Kamen and Davis, in combination or alone, do not teach or suggest that the varnish is partially cured by exposure to heat prior to transfer as recited in claims 1 and 26.

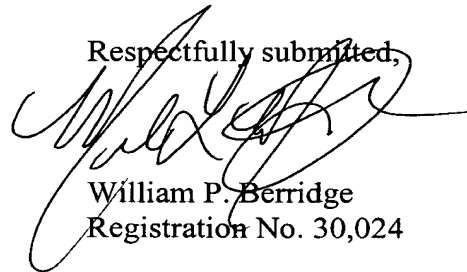
Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 42 and 43 are patentable over JP '492, Reed, Kamen and/or Davis. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are thus respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 3-16, 18-22, 24-26 and 28-61 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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